

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/518,147
Reply to Office Action dated October 4, 2006

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Remarks:

Applicants have read and considered the Office Action dated October 4, 2006, and the references cited therein. Claims 1-7 has been amended. Claims 1 to 12 are currently pending.

Claim 1 has been amended to better define what the Applicants consider their invention, as fully supported by an enabling disclosure. In particular Claim 1 has been amended and recites a cathode assembly for use in the refining of metals comprising a substantially flat deposition plate fixedly attached along an upper edge thereof to an elongate hanger bar thereby defining a connection, a protective cladding abutting said deposition plate and at least partially surrounding said hanger bar such that a cavity is defined in the region of said connection and a *curable* corrosion resistant material filling said cavity. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at least in original claim 4.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claim 1 was objected to for a clerical error. Applicants have amended Claim 1 in order to change the term "fat" to "flat". Applicants assert that the objection has been overcome.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants assert that Claim 1 as amended overcomes this objection.

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REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) on the grounds that they are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,569,300 by Assenmacher. Applicants assert that Claim 1 as amended overcomes this rejection in view of the following arguments. Assenmacher discloses a cathode assembly comprising hanger bar (22) and a mother plate (26). The mother plate (26) is welded to the hanger bar (22) using copper rod welds (40) and then a stainless steel cladding 54 is placed over the hanger bar (22) and welded in place to the mother plate (26) covering the copper rod welds (40). Assenmacher does not disclose a cathode assembly comprising a substantially flat deposition plate fixedly attached along an upper edge thereof to an elongate hanger bar thereby defining a connection, a protective cladding abutting the deposition plate and at least partially surrounding the hanger bar such that a cavity is defined in the region of the connection and a *curable* corrosion resistant material filling the cavity as claimed at Claim 1 of the present invention. Moreover, Assenmacher does not suggest the cathode assembly recited in Claim 1. As a result, Applicants assert that Claim 1 is allowable and that Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6, depending from allowable claims, are therefore also allowable.

The rejections of the original claims are believed to have been overcome by the present remarks and the introduction of new claims.

Claims 8-11 were allowable over the prior art of record. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims. Applicants assert that claim 12 also depends from claim 8 and is also allowable.

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If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please
contact Applicant's representative at 612.336.4728.



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Respectfully submitted,

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